

CONGRESSWOMAN

Carolyn McCarthy

Transportation Accomplishments - 107th

Long Island serves our nation's economy as a vital important economic engine. It is essential that we work together to improve our transportation system so that our region continues to prosper. Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy is committed to ensuring Long Islanders are served by safe, reliable and cost-effective transportation that contributes to their quality of life.

REDUCING AIRPLANE NOISE ON LONG ISLAND

Long Islanders are forced to live with—but have never accepted—the number of planes that fly over their homes, businesses and schools. As a lifelong resident of Mineola, Congresswoman McCarthy understands this concern. The noise emitted from commercial airplanes can be deafening. That is why I supported several legislative remedies addressing this problem.

Aircraft Monitoring System, Congresswoman McCarthy is working to secure \$240,000 in federal funding for an innovative web-based system that could allow the public to monitor aircraft take-offs and landings at LaGuardia, JFK and other Port Authority Airports, and report specific breaches in airport regulations.

PASSUR is a flight monitoring system that uses an independent radar network to provide information on aircraft. For security reasons, the system is delayed ten minutes for a “near-live” picture of aircraft traffic that allows aircraft type and altitude to be identified. Within an hour, full flight information is available including airline, flight number, aircraft type, altitude, and origin and destination. The flight monitoring system has been cleared for public use by the FAA.

This makes the airline and the airport directly accountable to the public, because the data can be used by individuals to determine an aircraft's compliance with rules and regulations. Complaints can be taken directly to the airline, the Port Authority, or the Federal Aviation Administration. Airline noise could be lessened if violators of spacial rules were violated.

Also, Congresswoman McCarthy believes aircraft monitoring is one more way of securing our homeland. The tracking system could help authorities make New York skies safer.

- √ **Congresswoman McCarthy authored H.R. 757, the Airport Congestion Relief Act of 2001.** Her bill would extend the moratorium at LaGuardia Airport. Specifically, it amends Federal aviation law to continue to limit, for a specified period, the number of slots at LaGuardia Airport (including slot exemptions) for scheduled commercial air carrier flights to 75 per hour, and the number of slots for general aviation flights to six per hour. Further, it requires the Secretary of Transportation to continue to conduct a comprehensive study on remedies needed to alleviate concerns of aviation consumers and the community surrounding LaGuardia Airport associated with increasing the number of flights there.
- √ In addition to the number of flights flying over Long Island, the noise emitted from these planes is also a problem. **H.R. 299, The Aircraft Noise Reduction Act** prohibits the operation in certain metropolitan areas of turbojets that fail to comply with noise levels, meeting a federal standard known as stage 3. Stage 3 engines are 50 percent quieter than the earlier stage 2 engines.
- √ Congresswoman McCarthy supports efforts made by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to redesign the airspace over Long Island. Agency representatives have held town hall meetings in the district to discuss this redesign effort with Long Island residents.
- √ Congresswoman McCarthy is a cosponsor of the **H.R. 2746, Airport Noise Curfew Act of 2001**, which establishes the Airport Noise Curfew Commission, which shall study and make recommendations to Congress regarding the establishment of curfews on nonmilitary aircraft operations over populated areas of the United States during normal sleeping hours.

SECURING OUR AIRPORTS

To prevent further terrorist attacks using those aircraft as weapons Congresswoman McCarthy focused her attention and passed the Aviation and Transportation Security Act.

- √ Requires all checked baggage to be screened by explosive detection systems by December 31, 2002.
- √ Required the federal government to assume responsibility for airport screening, making airline baggage screeners, federal employees.
- √ Provides funds for air carriers to defray the costs of security enhancements to aircraft such as fortifying cockpit doors or installing video surveillance cameras.
- √ Strengthened the Federal Air Marshal program.
- √ Established a new security agency within the Transportation Department to take charge of airport security, conduct background checks on security personnel, and enforce more stringent employment, training, and performance standards for screeners.

FUNDING LONG ISLAND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy obtained much needed funding for the MTA's East Side Access Project. This project connects a line of the Long Island Railroad to the Grand Central Terminal and is a top transit funding priority for New York.
- ✓ Concerned about the loss of jobs and funding for critical highway projects, due to the economic recession, the Congresswoman has worked closely with her colleagues to restore funding for the Federal-Aid Highway Program and has sponsored **H.R. 3694, the Highway Funding Restoration Act of 2002.**

SEPTEMBER 11 RELIEF

Current law requires that transportation activities “conform” to air quality plans before approval by the federal government. The aftermath of 9/11, however, makes it impossible for New York to meet its October 2002 conformity deadline. For example, the local transportation planning office was destroyed and 50 million square feet of commercial space was lost. Also, post-9/11 traffic patterns and commercial real estate shifts are still evolving. Without legislative relief, New York will be in a conformity lapse which can create significant obstacles to funding new highway and transit projects.

Congresswoman McCarthy supported **H.R. 3880, the Clean Air Act Waiver for New York**, which provides a temporary waiver from certain transportation conformity requirements and metropolitan transportation planning requirements under the Clean Air Act and under other laws for certain areas in New York where the planning offices and resources have been destroyed by acts of terrorism.

PROVIDING TAX RELIEF FOR COMMUTERS

- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy sponsored **H.R. 318, the Commuter Benefit Equity Act of 2001.**
- Revises the tax code to increase the amount of money that mass transit users could deduct from their taxes. Current law unfairly penalizes mass-transit commuters by taxing them on as much as an additional \$110 per month in income, just for choosing mass transit. This bill aims to remedy this disparity by revising the tax code to allow the same \$175 per month for all employees, eliminating the discrimination against mass-transit commuters. People utilizing mass transit will be rewarded-not punished.